(c) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) The Ministry has identified 'Saharia' tribe of Rajasthan as Primitive Tribal Group (PTG).

(b) to (d) The Ministry has been implementing a scheme *i.e.* 'Development of Primitive Tribal Groups' exclusively for the welfare of Primitive Tribal Groups since 1998-99. Under the scheme, proposals are received from the State/UT Governments and NGOs, and funds are released for activities like infrastructure development, income generating programmes, health-care, educational development, etc. for the development of PTGs. An amount of Rs. 80.65 lakhs and Rs. 62.00 lakhs has been released under the Scheme in favour of Rajasthan during the year 2004-05 and 2005-06, respectively. Further, under the Scheme of Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution, Rs. 219.98 lakhs and Rs. 100 lakhs, have also been released during 2003-04 and 2004-05, respectively for development of Saharias, to Rajasthan.

Inclusion of tribals from Pondicherry in ST list

†1322.SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to include some of the tribals of Pondicherry in the list of Tribals;

(b) if so, the reasons for not including the said tribals in the list, so far; and

(c) whether Government of Pondicherry has made a recommendation with regard to inclusion thereof in the List?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of Pondicherry has recommended for inclusion of some communities in the list of Scheduled Tribes. The approved modalities for inclusion/exclusion of any community in the list of Scheduled Tribes under Article 342 of the Constitution require consultation with various agencies such as State Government, Registrar General of India and National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, which takes time.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.